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Objectives of Using Rape as a Weapon of War: The Perpetrator's Perspective

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Poster Presentation P18

**OBJECTIVES OF USING RAPE AS A WEAPON OF WAR:
THE PERPETRATORS' PERSPECTIVE**

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Wartime rape is a political act. While time periods and historical situations vary, the fact remains that rape serves as an effective weapon of war whose perpetrators are fully aware of their agency in actuating their end goal. Perhaps more startling, these aims are eerily similar as exemplified in the genocides of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Rwanda. Nothing is new about the use of rape as a weapon in war; prior to the International Criminal Tribunals for Yugoslavia and Rwanda, rape was considered to be just another component of all that was fair in war. This presentation will examine what has changed in the international system concerning rape with regards to recent conflicts marked by utter brutality and complete contempt for humanity. Furthermore, the presentation will seek to explain why perpetrators view rape as a legitimate weapon of war and how they are able to accomplish their ultimate aims.